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ROUTINE

Intelligence Information Cable

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FSUN: Phoenix

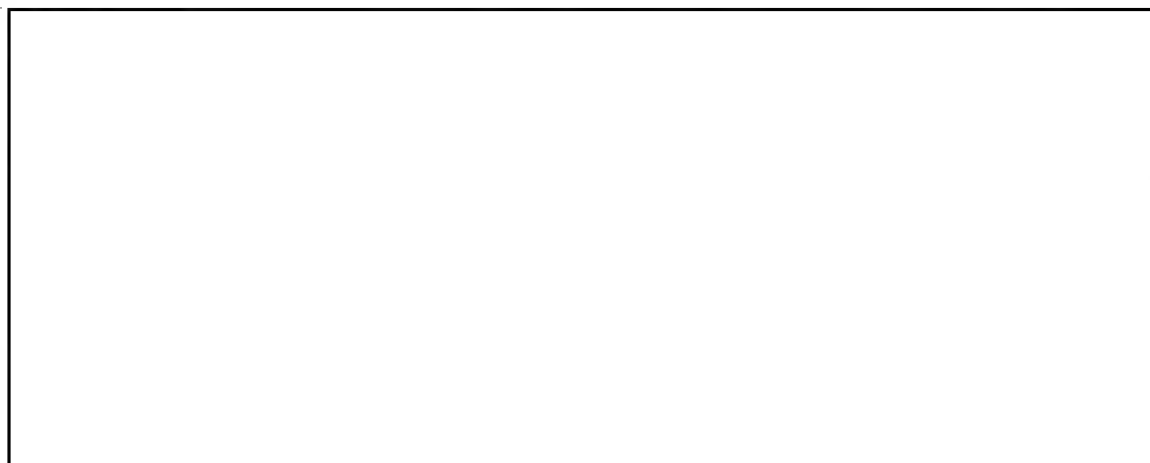
DIST 26 JULY 1972

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DOI 15 APRIL - 10 JULY 1972

SUBJECT RESULTS OF THE BINH DUONG PROVINCE POLICE
SPECIAL BRANCH CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE VIET
CONG INFRASTRUCTURE AND ITS EFFECT ON POLICE
MORALE

ACQ VIETNAM, BIEN HOA (17 JULY 1972) FIELD NO. [REDACTED]



1. SINCE THE NATIONAL POLICE SPECIAL BRANCH (PSB)

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ROLL-UP CAMPAIGN TO ARREST VIET CONG INFRASTRUCTURE CADRES (VCI) BEGAN ON 15 APRIL 1972, THE BINH DUONG PROVINCE PSB HAS ARRESTED 107 VCI. THIS COMPARES TO A VCI ARREST FIGURE OF ABOUT 20 PER MONTH PRIOR TO APRIL. DURING THE PERIOD 15 APRIL-10 JULY THE BINH DUONG POLICE PRESENTED A TOTAL OF 121 CASES TO THE PROVINCE SECURITY COUNCIL (PSC) FOR DETERMINATION WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULTS: 35 ARRESTEES WERE CONVICTED AND SENTENCED; SEVEN CASES WERE REFERRED TO MILITARY COURTS; ONE CASE WAS REFERRED TO A CIVILIAN COURT; EIGHT CASES WERE ADJOURNED; AND 72 ARRESTEES WERE RELEASED.

2. THE PRESENCE OF THE PROVINCE CHIEF AT BINH DUONG PSC MEETINGS HAS A DECIDED INFLUENCE ON CASE ADJUDICATION, WITH THE CONVICTION RATE INCREASING SIGNIFICANTLY WHEN HE WAS PRESENT. THE PROVINCE CHIEF ATTENDED THE FIRST TWO PSC MEETINGS IN JUNE AND THE CONVICTION RATE FOR THOSE CASES PRESENTED WAS ALMOST 100 PERCENT; WHEN HE DID NOT ATTEND THE THIRD JUNE PSC MEETING, THE CONVICTION RATE DROPPED TO TEN PERCENT. THE CONVICTION RATE FOR "C" CATEGORY PRISONERS -- LOW-LEVEL VILLAGE AND HAMLET CADRES AND AGENTS, FOOD SUPPLIERS, VC SYMPATHIZERS, AND COMMUNICATION-LIAISON PEOPLE

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-- HAS BEEN VERY LOW. UNLESS THERE HAS BEEN MORE THAN THE ONE REQUIRED COMPLAINT ABOUT THE "C" ARRESTEE OR HIS CASE HAS BEEN PRECEDED AT PSC MEETINGS BY "A" AND "B" CATEGORY. CASES WHICH HAVE ANNOYED THE PSC, THE "C" ARRESTEE REGULARLY HAS BEEN RELEASED.

3. BECAUSE OF RECENT INSTANCES SINCE LATE JUNE IN WHICH THE "C" CATEGORY ARRESTEES HAVE BEEN CONVICTED, THE MORALE OF THE LOCAL POLICE HAS BEEN RAISED CONSIDERABLY BECAUSE THE "C" CATEGORY ARRESTEES REPRESENT THE INDIVIDUALS WITH WHOM THE LOCAL POLICE DEAL PRIMARILY. PREVIOUSLY, MANY "C" ARRESTEES WHO WERE RELEASED WITHOUT CONVICTION RETURNED TO THEIR ORIGINAL OPERATING AREAS AND RESUMED THEIR VC-RELATED ACTIVITIES, FREQUENTLY TAUNTING THE LOCAL POLICEMEN INVOLVED IN THEIR ARRESTS. SINCE LATE JUNE SEVERAL OF THE "C" INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN REARRESTED AND CONVICTED, RENEWING THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE POLICE FOR ARRESTING VCI. (FIELD COMMENT: SEE [REDACTED] FOR AN EXAMPLE OF THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE LOCAL POLICE AND A CAUSE OF EARLIER INACTIVITY AGAINST THE VC ON LOCAL LEVELS.)

4. FIELD DISSEM: EMBASSY USMACV PSD [REDACTED] ONLY)

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